THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Agro-Aviation Wing of the Ministry of Agriculture was transferred to Ministry of Civil Aviation in May, 1987 and subsequently to Vayudoot Ltd. in January, 1988. In view of the severe locust upsurge faced by the country during Summer of 1993, Government is considering to reactivate Agricultural Aviation Wing under the Administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Weed Growth affecting wheat cultivation

7157. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 34 lakh hectare area under cultivation of wheat is affected by the menace of weed growth in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has cut yield upto 60 per cent at certain places; and

(c) the steps being taken or already taken to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sir, on an average yield losses due to menace of weed growth in wheat is 20-25 per cent.

(c) The following steps are being taken to check the weed menace in wheat crop:—

1. Education the farmers about cultural, mechanical and chemical methods of weed control including proper use of weedicides.

2. Ensuring timely availability of quality weedicides for control of weeds in wheat crop.

Inadequate agricultural infrastructure to meet the food need

7158. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural infrastructure in India and other developing countries of Asia is inadequat to meet the food needs as stated by World Bank recently;

(b) if so, the reaction of government on the World Bank remarks;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to boost agricultural infrastructure in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM (a) Though it is not true of the whole of Asia, World Bank reports in the past have noted that infrastructure in India is a constraint to agricultural production.

(b) to (d) The Government is aware that a great deal of potential in agriculture remains unexploited due to inadequate infrastructure, food processing technology, lack of adequ- marketing linkages and policy implements. To realise this potential, corrective measures are being undertaken under the new economic policy to put agriculture on a path of sustained, broad based development.

DMS outlet in Rohini

7159. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has not opened any outlet booth of DMS in Rohini, Delhi if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;